Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer based system for automatically maintaining at least one deployment descriptor, comprising at least one computer and:

a parser operable to generate a representation of the at least one deployment descriptor;

a generator operable to create the at least one deployment descriptor;

a validator operable to validate the at least one deployment descriptor;

a graphical user interface (GUI) operable to at least invoke the parser;

wherein the GUI can include a user-selectable resource hierarchy, settings pane, message area, and toolbar and wherein when a node in the user-selectable resource hierarchy is selected, at least one field mapping to more than one value in the at least one deployment descriptor is displayed;

wherein the system ~~is operable to~~ automatically ~~generate~~ generates a replacement deployment descriptor based on at least one application source code file associated with the at least one deployment descriptor if the at least one deployment descriptor is defective; and

wherein the system is operable to automatically deploy an application associated with the at least one deployment descriptor.

2.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the validator is further operable to

generate an error when it encounters a syntactic or semantic fault in the at least one deployment descriptor,

use the GUI to display a selectable error message to a user,

select a node corresponding to the selectable error message in response to a user's selection of the selectable error message, and

cause fields of the node to be displayed by the GUI.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the generator is further operable to produce the at least one deployment descriptor from at least one application source code file.

5.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 1, further comprising:

a builder component operable to automatically update the at least one deployment descriptor to reflect one or more changes in at least one application source code file.

6.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the representation can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

7.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer based system for automatically maintaining at least one deployment descriptor, comprising at least one computer and:

a parser operable to generate a first representation of the at least one deployment descriptor based on the deployment descriptor's file;

a generator operable to create a second representation of the at least one deployment descriptor information based on at least one application source code file associated with the at least one deployment descriptor;

a builder operable to compare the first representation with the second representation;

wherein the builder is further operable to update automatically updates the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if the builder determines that the at least one application source code file of the second representation [[is]] has been modified;

wherein the system is operable to automatically generate a replacement deployment descriptor based on the at least one application source code file if the at least one deployment descriptor is defective; and

wherein the system is operable to generate generates new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

-3-

9.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

the generator is operable to produce the at least one deployment descriptor from the at least one application source code file.

10.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

a representation can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

11.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

12.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

information is not deleted from the first representation after the first representation is updated.

13.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

a user can modify information in the second representation.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A method for updating at least one deployment descriptor, comprising:

creating a first representation of the at least one deployment ~~descriptor based on the deployment~~ descriptor's file;

creating a second representation of ~~a second at least one~~ deployment descriptor information based on at least one application source code file associated with the at least one deployment descriptor;

comparing the first representation with the second representation; and

automatically updating the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if the at least one application source code file of the second representation [[is]] has been modified; and

generating new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein:

information is not deleted from the first representation after the first representation is updated.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein:

a user can modify information in the second representation.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

create a first representation of ~~the~~ at least one deployment ~~descriptor based on the deployment~~ descriptor's file;

create a second representation of ~~a second at least one~~ deployment descriptor information based on at least one application source code file associated with the at least one deployment descriptor;

-5-

compare the first representation with the second representation;

automatically update the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if the at least one application source code file of the second representation [[is]] has been modified; and

generating new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

23. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

24. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

25. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

information is not deleted from the first representation after the first representation is updated.

26. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

27. (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

a user can modify information in the second representation.

28. (Canceled)